(c) Several steps have been taken from time to time by the Government to prevent such brain drain and also to attract scientists and technocrats settled abroad to return to India. Some of these are:—

— Increase in the outlay for Science and Technology sector in successive Five Year Plans.

— Creation of new scientific Departments/Organisations.

—Setting up of more centres of excellence/advanced studies in Universities and academic institutions.

—Creation of special Cell in the Ministry of Industry for assisting NRI's for setting up industrial units in this country. Some states have also set up special cells and Departments for this.

— Provisions for temporary placement of Scientists and Technocrats under the scheme of Scientists Pool.

— Creation of supernumerary Posts.

—Invitation to distinguished men and women of Indian original settled abroad for short term technical assignments to assist in frontier and emerging areas of Science & Technology.

— Creation of core groups of professionals with necessary modern facilities required for pursuing research in new and frontier areas of science.

— S&T based training for entrepreneurial development.

—Delegation of enhanced administrative and financial powers to S&T institutions to improve working conditions of scientists.

— Provision of facilities for import of equipment for professionals returning from abroad.

— Manpower development training/retraining programmes through associationships / fellowships / courses.

Promotion and marketing of indigenously developed technologies

@2494. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared an elaborate plan for promotion and marketing of indigenously developed technologies to compete with imported technology;

(b) if so, what are the details of the plan with areas of application;

(c) whether any time bound action plan has been drawn for its implementation; and

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to implement the plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) The Government has given fullest support to the promotion, development and commercialisation of indigenous technologies to achieve technological self-reliance. Strengthening and diversifying the domestic technology base are necessary to reduce imports and to expand exports in a competitive manner. In order to promote development and marketing of indigenous technology the Government has evolved several incentives. Some of the incentives are: Enhanced Investment Allowance or Accelerated Depreciation on cost of the plant and machinery installed; Custom Duty Exemption on import of scientific equipment and consumables for R&D; and exemption from price control for indigenously developed drugs.

(c) and (d) The measures for promotion and marketing of indigenously developed technologies are required on a continuous basis. The provisions are reviewed from time to time and suitable modifications introduced. The Department of Scientific and

@Previously Unstarred Question 1718 transferred from the 9th March, 1992.

Industrial Research has evolved programmes for implementation during the 8th plan period (1992-97), and these include: Research and Development by Industry; Programmes Aimed at Technological Self-Reliance; Scheme to Enhance Efficiency of Transfer of Technology. These schemes will have a significant bearing on continuous absorption and upgradation of imported technology as well as commercial utilisation of indigenously developed technologies.

Indian Space Research Organisation to set up of a Corporate front to handle its business activities

2495. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Space Research Organisation had suggested setting up of a corporate front to handle its business activities;

(b) whether Government have cleared the proposal; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposal involves various approval cycles and the matter is already receiving the attention of the Government.

Addition of newer societies or centres in Department of Space

2496. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Department of Space keeps adding newer societies or centres;

(b) if so, the details of such additions during the last 3 years, yearwise; and

(c) the details of the methodology adopted for coordinating with societies of other Scientific Departments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Projects and Programme of the Department of Space (DOS) involve interaction with various Ministries/Departments, Industries in both public and private sectors, academic/research institutions and Societies. In the area of common interest, where necessary, the Department of Space is represented in the concerned fora of these Institutions.

Identifying fishes in the sea

2497. SHRI V. NARYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are conducting any study with the help of satellites to identify fishes in the sea enabling fishermen to venture into the sea where large number of fishes are available; and

(b) whether Government are periodically disseminating information to the fishermen who are fishing in the coastal area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir. Thermal data available from the National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA-USA) satellite (Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer Sensor) are used to generate Sea Surface Temperature (SST) maps. Based on the examination of SST charts certain